The following info is offered to any researcher for review decision and action. It is presented in the spirit of collaborate and friendly research.

It deals with two different John Cunninghams in Warren County Tennessee who are not related. Extensive research by several Tennessee historians cannot confirm that John Cunningham (1748-1842) and Keziah Chandler had a son named John, John II or John Junior. This is based on available original source documents (wills, land transfer, court records, etc.).

The two John Cunninghams have different paternal lines as evidenced by genealogical research and y-DNA genetic testing. For example, John Cunningham (1792-1858 **-Haplogroup I2b1**) arrived in Rock Island, Warren, TN, in the northern part of the county between 1797-1805 with his father (unknown first name) and appears on the 1812 Warren County Tax List when about 20 years old. Over a decade later, John Cunningham (1748-1842-Haplogroup R1b), son of James Cunningham and Jane Scott of Robinson’s Fork of Meherrin Creek, Lunenburg VA) and his family arrived from Wilkes, NC in 1819/1820 and settled in the Viola community at the southern end of Warren County.

Therefore, genealogy research and genetics results strongly suggest that John Cunningham (1748-1842 -**Haplogroup R1b**) of Viola, Warren, TN is not the father of John Cunningham (1792-1858-**Haplogroup I2b1-**War of1812) of Rock Island, Warren, TN.

Regretfully, It appears that several newspaper accounts, the Latter Day Saints (LDS) records and Sons of American Revolution (SAR) membership number 45321 and numerous Ancestry.com Trees which incorrectly show a father-son relationship between the two John Cunninghams above can not be verified and appear to be invalid.

However, there are nine (9) children for John Cunningham and Keziah Chandler of Viola, Warren, TN per the following source: Research by a noted Warren County historian, Almetia Dunn Cunningham, published in the book, "Heritage of Warren County", 2005, article 772, page 234 which is based on the 1839, Warren County Deed Book M, page 370. The nine (9) children of Rev. War Soldier John Cunningham (10 Feb 1747, VA - 18 Dec 1842, Viola, Warren, TN) and his second wife, Kiziah Chandler (6 Mar 1758 VA- 22 Apr. 1839, Viola, Warren, TN) their key dates, locations, spouses and respective number of children are:

#1- Langston, 14 Apr 1783 VA-24 Jun 1835 Viola, Warren, TN, m 23 Apr 1805 NC, Nancy Robins, 10 children (Langston and Nancy's son, called John, Jr. helped his Grandfather John apply for Rev. War Pension in 1833)

#2- Richard, Baptist Minister, b ca 1785 NC- d?? Bedford, TN, NC m 23 Nov 1801 NC, Patsy Bagby, 5 known children

#3- Benjamin W. 14 Apr 1788 NC-7 Aug 1838 Viola, Warren, TN m 14 Sep 1809 NC, Lucy Lenoir, 10 children (excluded in John Cunningham Will except that which son Benjamin had already received)

#4- Rachel b 1791 NC -d 1868 Marshall, TN, m 9 Jan 1910 NC, Austin Shepherd, (children names and number unknown)

#5- Elizabeth, birth date unknown, NC-d ca 1839 Warren, TN, married 5 Nov 1817 NC, Jessie R. Edwards, 7 children

#6- Joseph H, 22 Mar 1793-7 May 1856 Shelby, AL, m 1st) 11 Feb 1819 Elizabeth Welch and 2nd) 10 Aug 1836 Lucretia Griffith Wilson, (Joseph was father of 17 children)

#7- Martha, 26 Mar 1801, NC married William Harrison Kinnard

#8- Mary "Polly"- dates unknown, married 1804NC, Thomas Martin, 3 children ("Polly" Martin excluded in John Cunningham Will since she had already received a gift)

#9- Nancy-dates unknown, married 9 Jan 1810NC, Andrew Shepherd, (unknown relationship with sister Rachel and husband Austin Shepherd listed as #4 above nor their children). Hope this is helpful in your ancestral search.

Additionally, some people have speculated that John Cunningham (1792-1858, War of 1812) is the son of John Cunningham (1792-1858 Rev. War) and his first wife Mary Hill Pettipool in Virginia after they were married in 1771. There are two major abnormalities with this proposal:

#1 –John Cunningham was born ca 1792 based on his later Federal census and War of 1812 pension application. Mary Hill Pettipool died ca 1774 in VA. (Side Note: Mary Hill Pettipool never lived and she did not die in Viola, Warren, TN in 1774 as listed on many Ancestry.com family sites.) John’s birth about 18 years after her death is simply not possible.

#2 – The will of John Cunningham (Viola, Rev. War) lists all of his children by name, from both marriages, and John Cunningham (Rock Island, War of 1812) is not listed.

**In summary, the “overwhelming preponderance of evidence” suggests there is no direct family connection between the two John Cunningham gentlemen.**

If you have different sources or results, I would like very much to hear from you. If you have more to add or suggestions on improvement, they too would be very much appreciated. If interested, feel free to access my "John Cunningham-John McMurtry" family tree for more details about the Rock Island, Warren, TN branch of early settlers.

Over Fork Over,

Mac Cunningham maccunningham@bellsouth.net

Family Tree y-DNA Haplogroup I2b1